United Nations S/PV.3643

Security Council
Fifty-first Year

Provisional

3643rd Meeting
Tuesday, 19 March 1996, 1.35 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Legwaila	(Botswana)
Members:	Chile	Mr. Eguiguren
	China	Mr. He Yafei
	Egypt	Mr. Abderahman
	France	Mr. Thiebaud
	Germany	Mr. Eitel
	Guinea-Bissau	Mr. Sane
	Honduras	Mr. Rendón Barnica
	Indonesia	Mr. Wisnumurti
	Italy	Mr. Cardi
	Poland	Mr. Chudy
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Chun
	Russian Federation	Mr. Fedotov
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Wilmshurst
	United States of America	Mr. Gnehm

Agenda

The situation in Sierra Leone

96-85308 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 1.35 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Sierra Leone

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in the course of its prior consultations.

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council welcomes the Parliamentary and Presidential elections held in Sierra Leone on 26 and 27 February 1996 and the second round of Presidential elections held on 15 March. It congratulates the people of Sierra Leone on the courage and determination they have shown in proceeding with the elections despite difficulties and disruptions, and pays tribute to all those involved in the success of the elections, in particular the Interim National Electoral Commission and its Chairman. The Council stresses the importance it attaches to a peaceful transition to civilian rule. It welcomes the commitment by the Chairman of the National Provisional Ruling Council to hand over authority by 31 March 1996 and calls upon all concerned to cooperate fully with the newly elected President and Parliament.

"The Security Council notes that the Joint International Observer Group, which monitored the first round of elections, was impressed by 'the overwhelming desire on the part of the people of Sierra Leone to exercise their democratic right in casting a ballot for the parties and candidates of their choice'. They have now done so, and it is incumbent on all concerned to help them to consolidate the gains that have been made. The Council is of the view that the circumstances created by the successful conclusion of the elections in Sierra Leone require redoubled efforts to end the fighting in that country. It commends the efforts of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General and others, in particular the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, to that end. It reiterates its call to all parties to end the violence. It calls upon the Revolutionary United Front to accept the outcome of the election, maintain the cease-fire and enter into a full dialogue for peace, without any conditions.

"The Security Council calls upon the international community to provide generous assistance to help in resolving the humanitarian problems caused by the conflict in Sierra Leone, and to assist the Government and people of that country in the task of reconstruction that now faces them.

"The Security Council requests the Secretary-General to continue to monitor the situation in Sierra Leone and to keep the Council informed of significant developments."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/1996/12.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on the agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.40 p.m.